

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships

Purpose	To ensure the vitality of the human resource base for mathematics, science and engineering in the United States. To reinforce its diversity.
Award	
<i>Tenable</i>	Any accredited nonprofit United States institution or appropriate international institution of higher education offering advanced degrees in applicable fields.
<i>Number & Amount</i>	Over 1200 awards in 2009. Per annum . . . \$30,000 stipend and fixed payment to cover tuition. \$1000 international travel allowance also available for research.
<i>Duration</i>	Maximum of three years of funding. Usable over five years, making NSF Fellowships <i>de facto</i> deferrable for two years.
Eligibility	
<i>Who</i>	U.S. citizen, U.S. national or permanent resident. Majors in natural sciences, computer science, mathematics, engineering. Also many majors in the social sciences. History and/or philosophy of science also. Note that students with a clinical emphasis, versus a research emphasis, are ineligible though. The NIH oversees research related to health and disease.
<i>When</i>	College senior or first year of graduate study. Second year of graduate study in some instances. Read the eligibility details carefully.
<i>Selection Criteria</i>	9000 applicants in 2009. Applicants judged on two criteria: <i>Intellectual Merit</i> and <i>Broader Impact</i> . Both are defined by the NSF and require careful attention in the application. Competitive candidates typically have substantial undergraduate research experience, a clear plan for what they plan to research at the graduate level and a very high GPA. Seniors and graduate students reviewed separately.
Campus Deadline	None.
Deadline	Typically in early November. Deadline is staggered (over several weeks) by field of study. GRE scores and references have distinct deadlines.
Application	Online application. Form includes resume and multiple essays regarding proposed research, prior research and personal experiences. Transcripts. Three letters of reference. GRE scores optional but strongly recommended.
Contact	Jim Hohenbary will gladly work with students on the NSF. Contact him at 112 Eisenhower or (785) 532-6904. You should also consult with faculty mentors.
Other	More information is available at https://www.fastlane-beta.nsf.gov/grfp . Other graduate awards of possible interest include the Homeland Security, EPA STAR, Hertz, SMART and NDSEG fellowships. Professional societies associated with particular fields also frequently offer awards.